



# Mary McLeod Bethune Council House

## National Historic Site



The National Park Service  
Bethune-Cookman College  
and the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House Federal Advisory Commission

**Invite You to Attend  
a Public Meeting on February 19, 1998  
at Bethune-Cookman College  
Daytona Beach, Florida**

9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Area Students

Bethune-Cookman College

Heyn Chapel

7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

General Public

Bethune-Cookman College

Science Lecture Hall in the Science and Math Building

*“I leave you love . . . I leave you hope . . .  
I leave you the challenge of developing  
confidence in one another . . . I leave  
you a thirst for education . . . I leave you  
respect for the uses of power . . .*



*I leave you faith . . . I leave you racial  
dignity . . . I leave you a desire to live  
harmoniously with your fellow men . . .  
I leave you finally a responsibility to  
our young people”*

From 1943 to 1949 Mary McLeod Bethune, founder of Bethune-Cookman College, national political leader, and founder of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), lived and worked in Washington, DC. In the townhouse at 1318 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Mrs. Bethune and other NCNW members met with national and world political leaders and planned ways to bring attention to a myriad of social and economic issues, especially those related to Black youth and Black women. Through her strategic position as director of the Division of Negro Affairs for the National Youth Administration, Mrs. Bethune was instrumental in promoting New Deal policies regarding African-American employment within the federal government and the allocation of funds for programs affecting African Americans. Through the influence she wielded as NCNW president, Mrs. Bethune was successful in addressing her concerns for Black women's rights, education, health, housing, and international relations.

Today the Second Empire Victorian townhouse where Mrs. Bethune received many prominent visitors, including First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, is a national historic site. The house is managed by the National Park Service (NPS) and is dedicated to preserving and interpreting Mary McLeod Bethune's life and work. In addition, the site also houses The National Archives for Black Women's History, the only repository solely dedicated to the collection and preservation of materials relating to African-American women's history.

The National Park Service is undertaking a major planning effort to look at the future of the **Mary McLeod Bethune Council House** National Historic Site to ensure that these important resources are protected, restored, and maintained in good condition. The Park Service will also look at ways to ensure that visitors understand the purpose and significance of the site as well as how the Park Service can work with partners to increase support for the site. The product of this planning effort will be a general management plan for the historic site that will guide the preservation of the house and its resources and will establish management strategies for the next 10–15 years.

The National Park Service invites you to be an active participant in planning for the future of the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site. By attending a February 19 public meeting at Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida, you can add your ideas on how to preserve and protect this important site.

Bethune-Cookman College, the original home of Mrs. Bethune's Daytona Normal and Industrial School for Negro girls, is sponsoring two meetings at the college. A morning session (9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.) will be held in the college chapel primarily for area students, but the general public is also invited. Students will learn about Mrs. Bethune's life and work and the National Park Service's role in preserving the nation's resources for future

generations. The students will then be given the opportunity to express their ideas on how the Bethune Council House should be preserved and protected in the future.

In the evening (7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.) a session will be held to introduce the general management plan and gather input from the general public on the future of this national historic site. The evening session will be held at Bethune-Cookman College in the Science Lecture Hall in the Science and Math Building. For directions to the campus and for more information please contact: *Dr. Sheila Flemming at Bethune-Cookman College (904) 255-1401 ext. 294 or Susan McElrath, acting site manager at the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site in Washington, DC (202) 673-2402.* Information about the National Historic Site can also be found on the NPS Web site at <http://www.nps.gov/MAMC>.